TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 7 totaled an estimated 17.1 billion ton-miles, 1.0 percent below the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 10 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 164.7 billion ton-miles, down 2.0 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 7 totaled 384,533, up 0.1 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and virtually the same as the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 1.1 percent in the East and up 1.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 11 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, grain showed a gain of 6,285 cars (28.8 percent), while metallic ores increased by 1,553 cars (12.6 percent). Twelve of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 28 totaled 98,452 trailers and/or containers, 0.4 percent below last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first nine weeks of the year was 831,581 trailers and/or containers, up 3.3 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/7/87:

	Loadings in Week ended March 7, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,128	I	6,285	28.8	I	1,562	5.9
Other farm products	3,385	I	100	3.0	I	100	3.0
Metallic ores	13,890	I	1,553	12.6	D	676	4.6
Coal	104,571	D	8,664	7.7	I	1,050	1.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,380	D	237	2.0	I	1,470	14.8
Nonmetallic minerals	8,617	D	806	8.6	D	451	5.0
Grain mill products	11,128	I	249	2.3	D	301	2.6
Food and kindred products	11,165	I	409	3.8	D	20	0.2
Primary forest products	10,536	D	828	7.3	I	357	3.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,993	I	162	2.1	D	924	10.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,750	D	848	6.2	D	798	5.9
Chemicals and allied products	26,402	I	961	3.8	D	2,458	8.5
Petroleum products	4,732	I	96	2.1	D	22	0.5
Stone, clay and glass products	9,988	D	51	0.5	I	872	9.6
Coke	4,495	D	320	6.6	I	308	7.4
Metals and products	8,201	D	253	3.0	D	546	6.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,506	D	1,858	8.0	D	677	3.1
Waste and scrap materials	8,694	I	124	1.4	D	67	0.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,999	D	2,680	47.2	D	66	2.2
All other carloads	73,858	I	6,960	10.4	I	1,278	1.8
LCL traffic	115	D	18	13.5	I	16	16.2
Total Cars Loaded	384,533	I	336	0.1	I	7	0.0
Corresponding week of 1986	384,197						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (10 weeks)	3,662,083	3,711,802	D 1.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
9 Weeks ended February 28	147.6	150.9	D 2.2
Week ended March 7	17.1	17.3	D 1.0
10 Weeks cumulative	164.7	168.1	D 2.0

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